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Editorial

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

It was a notable meeting and a great credit to the officers who planned the program and to the whole Association. The intention had been to meet at the University of Toronto, and arrangements to this effect had been made with the speakers. However, after the programs had been printed, the epidemic of smallpox in Ontario made it necessary to transfer the meeting to some other place and the University of Pittsburgh very generously offered to become our host for a second time within ten years. As usual, the Archaeological Institute of America met at the same time and place. The sessions were held during the three days, December 29-31, 1919.

It is true that East is East and West is West. In spite of this fact, the twain do meet at Pittsburgh, which is conveniently situated between the two. The attendance was about 100, which is excellent when one considers all the facts in the case, that the meeting had to be transferred from one section to another, that traveling expenses are high. No more cordial welcome than that of Chancellor McCormick could be extended to the societies, and it was highly appreciated. The university and the city were at our service for the three days. From its actions one might suppose that the whole city had actually heard and taken to heart the words of the Chancellor. Even the trolley conductors and the policemen went out of their way to be good to us. Professor Laing was called upon to reply to the address of welcome, and his speech, too, charmed and delighted us all.

Often has it been said that philology and archaeology are dry. On this occasion in particular some may have supposed that this meeting would be extra dry. The falsity of this supposition was clearly revealed at every session. There was hardly a paper to which the term "dry" could be applied. The papers were even higher in scholarship than ever before, if that be possible; but nearly all of them were enlivened by brilliant touches of humor. The address of President Scott on "The Arguments Which Have Convinced Me of Homeric Unity" was throughout interrupted by applause. It was witty at times, though more often humorous, and always scholarly.

As was to be expected, the program had been planned to commemorate in a fitting manner the fiftieth anniversary of the Association. Three of the sessions were devoted to papers on various subjects selected by their authors. The other sessions were given to papers designed to show what has been done in the line of our endeavors during the last fifty years. It was a brilliant program. The varied subjects were well treated by the speakers, and yet, to repeat, there was nothing "extra dry" or even "dry" about any one of them. For instance, it might have been thought that "The History of the Association" could not escape aridity. If anyone had such an expectation as this, he was abundantly disappointed. The man chosen to deliver this address is the one best fitted for the task on account of his most intimate connection with the Association, Professor Frank Gardner Moore, who was secretary-treasurer for many years and president in 1917. It was a charming address. If history is ever a rattling of dry bones, it was quite otherwise on this occasion. Professor Moore told us what he was in duty bound to tell, but the way of putting it was his own.

The program of papers will be found under "Current Events."

After the annual address by President Scott on Monday evening, a reception was given by the university in the Fellows' Room, Mellon Institute. A thoroughly delightful hour was passed. On Tuesday the two societies were entertained at a luncheon given by the university in the Hotel Schenley. That is, it was called a "luncheon." The difference between it and a perfectly complete dinner would be difficult to explain. This was probably the best

“get together” of our meeting. About two hours after the beginning of the luncheon, most of us left to avail ourselves of the other attractions vouchsafed us for this afternoon. These were opportunities to visit and enjoy the art collections of the Carnegie Institute and the private collection of Mr. H. J. Heinz. A particularly enjoyable feature of the afternoon’s entertainment was an organ recital by Mr. Charles Heinroth, the organist and director of music of the Carnegie Institute. The organ is new and of great compass. The selections were rendered with marvelous perfection in every detail of technique and feeling. Some of the selections were chosen to show the power of the organ, others for the pure delight of the music itself.

The attendance was somewhat smaller than it has been at a few other meetings, but we have never had a richer and more thoroughly interesting program. The enthusiasm and spirit exhibited during the entire period were wonderful. It was clearly shown that the Association is actually fifty years young. For the excellence of the program we are, of course, indebted to the officers of the Association and to the speakers. For all things concerning our entertainment and comfort while in Pittsburgh we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Professor Evan T. Sage. All of his many plans were carried out with absolute precision. There was no weak link in the chain and not a dull moment during the three days. It *was* a notable meeting.

Five institutions kindly offered to be our hosts a year hence. After much deliberation the Committee on Time and Place voted to recommend that the Association, in conjunction with the Institute, hold its next annual meeting at the Johns Hopkins University. This recommendation was approved by the Association and the Institute.

The officers elected for the coming year are: president, Clifford H. Moore; vice-presidents, Walter B. McDaniel and Francis G. Allinson; secretary-treasurer, Clarence P. Bill; members of the Executive Committee (in addition to the above), Angie Clara Chapin, Richard M. Gummere, Duane Reed Stuart, Maurice Hutton, and Gordon J. Laing. As the new member of the Nominating Committee President Scott appointed Frank Gardner Moore.

M. N. W.